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Federal Agencies

December 19, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Art Unit To be assigned**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 10/670,465; Filed: September 26, 2003  
For: **Transition Section for a Catheter**  
Inventors: **Gribbons et al.**  
Our Ref: 1737.2680000/TUM/RLP

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. SKGF Cover Letter;
2. Information Disclosure Statement;
3. Form PTO-1449 (1 sheet) citing references: AA1-AG1 and AR1;
4. Copies of cited documents: AA1-AG1 and AR1; and
5. One (1) return postcard.

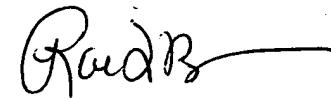
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
December 19, 2003  
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Rae Lynn Prengaman  
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TUM/RLP/lvt  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:  
Gribbons *et al.*  
Appl. No.: 10/670,465  
Filed: September 26, 2003  
For: **Transition Section for a Catheter**

Confirmation No.: *To be assigned*  
Art Unit: *To be assigned*  
Examiner: *To be assigned*  
Atty. Docket: 1737.2680000/TUM/RLP

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent

application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
- a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first

cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:

a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.

6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:

7. Copies of the documents are submitted herewith.

8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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Date: December 19, 2003

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FORM PTO-1449  PATENT & TRANSFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1737.2680000/TUM/RLP	APPLICATION NO. 10/670,465
	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Gribbons <i>et al.</i>	
	FILING DATE September 26, 2003	ART UNIT To be assigned

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	4,960,410	10/2/1990	Pinchuk			03/31/1989
	AB1	4,988,356	01/29/1991	Crittenden <i>et al.</i>			04/25/1988
	AC1	5,395,334	03/07/1995	Keith <i>et al.</i>			03/22/1993
	AD1	5,605,543	02/25/1997	Swanson			01/30/1996
	AE1	5,843,050	12/01/1998	Jones <i>et al.</i>			11/13/1995
	AF1	6,004,291	12/21/1999	Ressemann <i>et al.</i>			01/26/1998
	AG1	6,475,209 B1	11/05/2002	Larson <i>et al.</i>			03/24/2000
	AH1						
	AI1						
	AJ1						
	AK1						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1						Yes No
	AM1						Yes No
	AN1						Yes No
	AO1						Yes No
	AP1						Yes No

## OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR	<u>1</u>	U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0191491 A1 (Published 10/09/03 filed 04/04/2002; Inventors: Duane <i>et al.</i> )
AS	<u>1</u>	
AT	<u>1</u>	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.	